MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP Success Stories from the Field

Warner Chilcott

Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc

Warner Chilcott Heading Towards World Class Manufacturing

Client Profile:

Warner Chilcott, located in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, is a leading specialty pharmaceutical company focused on developing, manufacturing, marketing and selling branded prescription pharmaceutical products for women's healthcare and dermatology in the U.S. The company has been in operation since 2004 and currently employs 323 people.

Situation:

Warner Chilcott was continually improving operations and expanding its manufacturing capabilities for new products. Since the plant is the only one dedicated to the manufacture of anticonceptives, management understood that it is imperative that a continuous process of improvement be followed. The company contacted the The Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension, Inc. (PRIMEX), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance with Lean training.

Solution:

PRIMEX used its Lean Academy Program to train company employees. This program, which is part of the MEP University Lean Curriculum, covers all Lean techniques. Warner Chilcott applied the Lean principles learned to the installation of a new packing equipment, starting with 5S and Visual Controls, continuing with Toyota's Respect for Humanity philosophy, Point of Use Storage, Standardization and Teamwork. The company also initiated improvements to the equipment received (to favor proactive maintenance). These changes resulted in a significant waste reduction in maintenance time, transportation and movements, and validation.

Results:

- * Realized \$69,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced maintenance time, transportation and movements by 90 percent, or \$10,400.

Testimonial:

"PRIMEX' Lean Champion Program was well structured and gave us the opportunity to exercise on practical cases. The training helped us to identify and deal with the internal barriers that complicate our day-to-day duties. The facilitators focused on how to overcome obstacles in business life and how to cover the way through business challenge. The Lean tools will help us to strengthen our productivity efforts and develop our process improvement core competency."

Rafael Rosa, Packaging Technologist

